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| Notice of Allowability | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| | 09/431,344 | O'BRIEN ET AL. |
| | Examiner Courtney D. Fields | Art Unit 2137 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to 25 July 2005.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

E. Moise
EMMANUEL L. MOISE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. Claims 13 and 19 have been amended.
2. **Claims 1-20 are allowed.**
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The present invention is directed towards a method and apparatus for encrypting electronic messages composed by a sender using abbreviated address books for delivery over a mail system to a recipient who holds a digital certificate. Each independent claim identifies the uniquely distinct features "**placing the header and the plaintext mail message in an outbox, requesting the digital certificate from the mail system when the sender is online, in response to a flag, and encrypting the plaintext mail message using the digital certificate**".

The closest prior art Paladin System and RFC-822 discloses an offline system for composing email using an encryption field to identify that the associated message is encrypted, either singularly or in combination, fail to anticipate or render the above underlined limitations obvious. The closest prior art Clark (US Patent No. 5,815,577) discloses a method and apparatus for securely encrypting data in conjunction with a personal computer either singularly or in combination, fail to anticipate or render the above underlined limitations obvious. The closest prior art Floyd et al. (Pub No. 2002/0161709) discloses a server-side commerce for deliver-then-pay content delivery, either singularly or in combination, fail to anticipate or render the above underlined limitations obvious. The closest prior art Gressel et al. (US Patent No. 6,609,114) discloses a system for safe collection of payment including electronic payment receipt

generators having electronic purses, either singularly or in combination, fail to anticipate or render the above underlined limitations obvious.

5. Therefore, **claims 1,7,13, and 19**, and the respective dependent claims **2-6,8-12,14-18 and 20** are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Courtney D. Fields whose telephone number is 571-272-3871. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Thurs. 6:00 - 4:00 pm; off every Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Emmanuel Moise can be reached on 571-272-3865. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

CDJ
cdf
September 28, 2005

E. Moise
EMMANUEL L. MOISE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER